

LTC Bowers gave his life in an effort to improve the lives of others. This has been evident throughout his entire career and this sacrifice should never be forgotten. LTC Bowers, along with so many other brave men and women, put their lives on the line day in and day out. My sincere thanks go out to them all. God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH E. BLANCH
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph E. Blanch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 418, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the course of the years that Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges and served in a wide range of important positions.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph organized the production and installation of a much needed kiosk information both Hodge Park's Living History Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. This was no small task, as the total hours involved in this project totaled in excess of 260.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph E. Blanch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING JACQUELINE
NOONAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and congratulate a good friend and fellow public servant, Jacqueline Noonan, as she receives the 2004 Alexander Macomb "Woman of the Year" Award from the March of Dimes.

Jacqueline Noonan was raised in Avon Township, now Rochester Hills. She graduated from Rochester High School and graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. Jackie began teaching after graduating while continuing to work on her Master's degree at Oakland University. She and her husband, Jerry, became part of Utica, where they thoroughly enjoyed "small" town life with their five children: Christopher, Jbrome, Catherine, Melissa and Tracy.

In 1968, Jackie and Jerry turned their attention to owning and operating a family business, Noonan's Inc., which they did for 21 years. As their children entered Utica Community Schools, Jackie began her 24-year tenure as a volunteer in the school system and

served in almost every imaginable position from Enrollment Advisory Board member to Picture Lady.

Jackie Noonan was elected to Utica's City Council in 1981 and was named Businesswoman of the Year by the Utica Business and Professional Women's Club. She also returned to Oakland University and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1988.

Jackie Noonan was elected to the position of Mayor of Utica in 1987. In Utica, a city of some 5000 residents, the Mayor is also the Chief Executive Officer and is ultimately responsible for all services and functions of city government. During her tenure, Ms. Noonan researched and developed the famous 425 agreement; this intergovernmental agreement saved Utica from dissolution and brought about a sharing of resources and services between several communities.

In 1989, Ms. Noonan assumed the role of spokesperson for Macomb County Traffic Safety Association's school level "Don't Drink and Drive" alcohol education program, and in 1991, she returned to the role of educator with the Utica Community Schools. Certified to teach all levels of French and social studies, she is currently a full time faculty member at Eisenhower High School.

Jackie Noonan is currently serving her ninth consecutive term as Mayor of Utica, is the past chair of the Macomb County Mayors' Association, and serves on a variety of boards and commissions locally and statewide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a terrific public servant, a wonderful community activist, Jackie Noonan, for her devotion to her community and her achievements as a positive and accomplished role model to her family, friends, and neighbors. It has been my pleasure to work with Mayor Noonan on numerous local issues, especially those related to M 59, and call her a friend.

RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LIBERATION OF GUAM DURING
WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the island of Guam, whose residents I have the privilege of representing here in Congress, has been a territory of the United States and a part of the American family. The Department of the Navy administered the U.S. Territory of Guam from the time the island was ceded to the United States under the terms of the Treaty of Paris until December 8, 1941, when, during World War II, Imperial Japanese military forces attacked, invaded and then occupied Guam. The attack on Guam occurred only hours following the December 7, 1941, Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, at the time also a territory of the United States; the different dates owing to the International Date Line.

The enemy occupation of Guam lasted approximately two-and-a-half years, from December 10, 1941 until July 21, 1944. The occupation was a time of tremendous hardship

for the Chamorro people, the indigenous people of Guam. The people of Guam, who were U.S. nationals at the time, remained steadfastly loyal to the United States. Residents of the island, who numbered approximately 22,000, were subjected to forced labor, forced marches and deprivation at the hands of an enemy corroborating with the Axis forces. In the weeks prior to liberation, which came on July 21, 2004, the brutality of the occupying army increased with severe beatings and public executions. Groups of Chamorro men, women, and children were herded into caves on separate occasions and massacred. The entire population was forced to march to several internment camps in the southern part of the island.

On July 21, 1944, units of the 3rd Marine Division, 77th Army Infantry Division and 1st Marine Provisional Brigade, comprising a total force of roughly 55,000 service members, stormed the shores of Asan and Agat in southern Guam beginning the campaign to liberate the only American community to have been occupied by a foreign power since the War of 1812. Thirteen consecutive days of heavy naval and air bombardment preceded the landing of U.S. forces to weaken Japanese defense of the island.

Intense and fierce combat between the U.S. forces and the entrenched Japanese Army, which numbered 18,500 men, continued until August 10, 1944, when organized resistance ended and the U.S. forces seized control of the island. The Battle for Guam was marked by combat on difficult terrain against a well-prepared enemy. The Japanese defended the island from positions located in caves, tunnels, and from pillboxes situated on the beaches, cliffs, and hillsides overlooking the invasion beaches. Today, these beaches and many of these defensive positions are preserved within the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, established by Congress in 1978 (Public Law 95-348). This Park is the only site in the National Park System that honors the bravery and sacrifices of all individuals, service members and civilians, who experienced World War II in the Pacific Theater.

Over 1,100 Chamorros died as a result of the occupation of Guam, and every Chamorro endured one form or another of brutality, including personal injury, forced labor, forced march or internment during the occupation. Approximately 1,800 U.S. Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen were killed in action during the Battle for Guam. There were over 8,000 U.S. casualties. The Japanese suffered over 17,500 casualties, the large majority of which ended in death.

Today, Guam remains a territory of the United States. Congress extended U.S. citizenship to the people of Guam after World War II in 1950 (Public Law 81-630). Guam's current economy is largely tied to the Japanese economy given the proximity of the two and the importance of Japanese tourism to the island. The one million Japanese tourists the people of Guam welcome each year is a testament to the peace and friendship that has emerged between the United States and Japan since the end of World War II. The people of Guam remain an important part of this international friendship.

H. Res. 737 recognizes the Liberation of Guam on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary. In doing so, the resolution calls attention to the unique experience endured by the people of Guam and the extraordinary heroism